Smartcore luxury vinyl plank (LVP)—exclusively sold at Lowe's—is generally considered a good, budget-friendly option. It is 100% waterproof, durable, and easy to install for DIYers, though professional installers note that the rigid locking edges can be brittle if mishandled. Reddit · r/Flooring +4

Pros of Smartcore LVP

- **Waterproof:** Will not swell, warp, or peel when exposed to spills, moisture, or pet accidents.
- **Attached Underlayment:** Most lines come with a pre-attached pad for added sound reduction and underfoot comfort.
- **Wear Layer Options:** Higher tiers (like Smartcore Pro) feature a commercial-grade 20mil wear layer that resists scratches and heavy traffic well.
- **Affordable Price Point:** Offers a solid aesthetic and functional durability without premium specialty store pricing. Reddit · r/Flooring +5

Cons of Smartcore LVP

- **Brittle Locking System:** The tongue-and-groove edges can chip or break during installation if the subfloor has imperfections or if force is applied incorrectly. Reddit · r/Flooring +1
- **Subfloor Sensitivity:** Like most rigid core vinyl, it requires a flat, smooth subfloor; bumps or dips can cause the click joints to flex, click, or separate over time. Reddit · r/Flooring +1
- **Mixed Installation Feedback:** While many DIYers find it straightforward, others report frustration getting short-seam joints to lock tightly without careful tapping using a proper dead-blow hammer. Hou… +1